

From: Fox
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/19/01 2:24pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Department of Justice,

I am disappointed in the settlement between Microsoft and the DOJ. Microsoft is the most predatory corporation in the 1900's and has received little more than a hand slap. The settlement is a step in the right direction but there need to be some additional, stiffer penalties to give Microsoft's competition a fair footing on which to compete against them.

The most important thing I would recommend is forcing Microsoft to publish the specifications for their file formats for Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Access. With a market share of 90%+ for Microsoft Office, no one can successfully sell an alternative for Microsoft Office because it will not reliably read Microsoft Office documents, which are emailed from Corporation A to Corporation B, assuming Corporation B has Microsoft Office to open them. Every copy of Microsoft Office sold increases this barrier of entry for competitors. Forcing Microsoft to publish its file formats will ensure that other office suites can compete with Microsoft Office on features and quality, not on how well they read Microsoft Office documents, 90% of the documents out there.

Hardware vendors should be allowed to sell their machines with no operating system or a free operating system preinstalled for \$50 or \$100 dollars cheaper than with Windows preinstalled. The way Microsoft currently forces vendors to buy Windows licenses makes this financially implausible for hardware vendors. Just like you can buy a car cheaper without an option, you should be able to buy your computer cheaper without the Microsoft Windows option.

The penalty for non-compliance with this settlement should be stiffer. If Microsoft does not comply with current terms of its settlement, there should be a \$1 billion dollar initial fine with a \$50 million dollar a day fine until they comply, not simply an extension to their probationary period. That would be a meaningful penalty for non-compliance.

Thanks for hearing the voice of the people and not merely the sound of campaign contributions by the pro-Microsoft lobbying campaign.

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